

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may . . . glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

The Coastal Light

Church of Christ

1912 Osborne Rd. St Mary's, GA 31558 : (912)882-5800 : www.churchofchriststm.org

Elders:

Linwood Burden

Terry Powell

Deacons:

Eric Bennett

Bill Christensen

Donovan King

David Nordstrom

Gary Tupper

Preacher:

Art Wilson

July 31, 2022



Evangelize

"Go therefore and, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Mt. 28:19-20
ESV

"The churches of Christ salute you"

Romans 16:16

Sunday Services

10:00am service

11:00am Worship

6:00 pm Worship

Wednesday Service

7:00pm

Welcome Visitors

You are our honored guest.
Thank you for coming to visit with us.

Please complete a Visitor's Card and put it in the collection plate or give it to one of the men and please sign the register in the foyer so we can have a permanent record.

You are encouraged to take any DVDs or tracts you find in the foyer and enjoy some Visitors Bread in the basket beside the door as you exit.

Past sermons can be found on our website at:
www.churchofchriststm.org.

If you have any questions about anything you have heard or seen, please feel free to ask.

In respect of the worship service, please turn off or place your cell phone on silent during worship.

THANK YOU



PRAYER REQUEST

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Walter King –Prayers and encouragement.
Visitors are encouraged.

Michael Sloan – Has passed away. Prayers for the family (Art's uncle)

Betty Miller & Family – The passing of her brother James. (Rosalind's sister)

Audrey Williams- in the hospital with serious health issues. (Rosalind's friend)

Lashonda Jones – Has cancer. (Rosalind's friend).

Today's Sermon

AM: The Bible Teaching of Election

PM: Song & Prayer Service

Art Wilson

Announcements

VBS August 6th.

Cards are available in the fellowship hall. For the card ministry

Live streaming of the **10 AM & 11 AM Sunday morning** service and **Wednesday's 7 PM** bible study can be watched on the St Mary's church of Christ Facebook page.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word

Romans 10:17

Believe the Word

Hebrews 11:6

Repent of Your Sins

Luke 13: 3, 5

Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of the Living God

Mathew 10:32

Be Baptized for the Remission of Your Sins

Acts 2:38

Remain Faithful unto Death

Revelation 2:10

Jerusalem: A Model Church

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:40-47).

A model is "the plan from which an item not yet constructed will be produced." It is "an example to be imitated or compared" (*The American Heritage Dictionary*). It is that which is "worthy of imitation or duplication." It is the "ideal," an "exemplar," the "standard" (*Roget's Thesaurus*).

The Jerusalem church is the working model after which every congregation should pattern itself. It began according to inspired prophecy, and the apostles of Christ organized and oversaw it.

The Jerusalem church had a supernatural beginning under a Divine providence that resulted in a perfect model of the local church to follow in every age.

A Model Of Organization

The apostles organized the church according to a plan that preserved its autonomy and independence. Elders were installed as the overseers of the flock (Acts 15:6, 22) and deacons were chosen to serve the needs of the saints (Acts 6:1-7). These men were taken from among the Jewish converts that exemplified the qualifications later outlined and applied in all the churches (1 Tim. 3:1-10).

There was no organization in the early church tying the congregations together in either a denomination or a society. Every church had its own elders which directed the work of each church (Acts 11:29, 30). There was nothing but independent, autonomous cooperation between the churches.

A Model In Worship

The church at Jerusalem was a worshipping church. There was a distinct pattern to their worship established by the apostles. It included teaching, preaching and reading the Scriptures, the Lord's Supper, prayer, a collection and praise (Acts 2:42, 47).

From the very beginning the church assembled on the first day of the week to eat the Lord's Supper and give (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). They often assembled to pray (Acts 4:23-31; 12:12) and to teach (Acts 2:46; 5:42). Moreover, as did the Gentile churches, the saints in Jerusalem sang praises to God (Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 14:26).

A Model Of Church Growth And Evangelism

The Jerusalem church came into existence when a prepared people were in the prepared place at the prepared time. The first gospel sermon ever preached resulted in three thousand conversions in one day (Acts 2:41). These were followed by five thousand more on another day (Acts 4:4). Men and women were added to the church daily (Acts 2:47). The success of their efforts extended even to the teachers of false religion (Acts 6:7). Jesus had said that the fields were white unto harvest (John 4:35).

A Model Of Liberality

The Jerusalem church was filled with cheerful givers (2 Cor. 9:7). From the first service, there were critical financial needs to be met by the saints in Jerusalem. The circumstances were unusual—thousands of people hundreds of miles away from home unprepared for the extended stay. The need was pressing—"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The only way to feed, clothe and house these converts was for the "possessors of lands or houses" to sell them, giving the proceeds to the church for "distribution" to every man who had need (Acts 4:31-35).

The saints in Jerusalem gave until they impoverished themselves for the cause of Christ and their brethren (Heb. 10:32-34; Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-27). They did not regard their possessions as belonging unto themselves, but as belonging to their brethren (Acts 2:44; 4:32).

A Model Church The Jerusalem church is worthy of imitation by all who claim to belong to Jesus. She faced many of the same challenges and crises that churches have faced through the centuries. In her experiences are found the Divine answers to modern questions and religious division. Whether persecution, doctrinal purity, worship, or terms of membership is the issue we can return to the church in Jerusalem for the answer.